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ABSTRACT

Three illustrated stories from the Karuk Indians of northwestern California are told in free English translation and in Karuk with literal English translation. English and Karuk Unifon alphabet charts are provided. Stories tell of seasonal migration of the mockingbird and the swamp robin, coyote's quest for the sun and how he determined the sun's path, and the origin of coyote's song. (LFL)

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KARUK STORIES

#2

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KARUK STORIES #2

Karuk Teachers
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Karuk and literal English translation
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Free English translation
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1984

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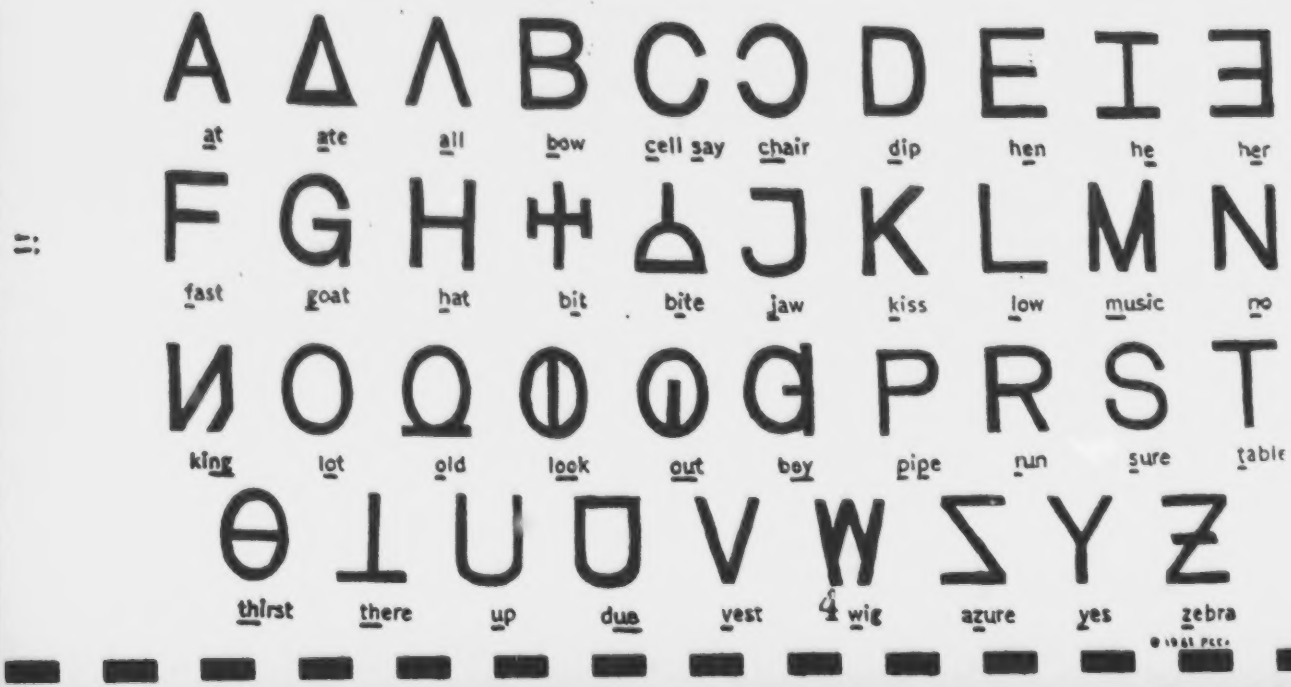
Arcata, California 95521

ENGLISH UNIFON

SINGLE-SOUND ALPHABET


A Δ Λ B C Ↄ D E I Ǝ
at ate all bow cell say chair dip hen he her
F G H ⊕ ⏃ J K L M N
fast goat hat bit bite jaw kiss low music no
Ո O Ω ⓞ ⓞ Ꭾ P R S T
king lot old look out boy pipe run sure table
Θ ⊥ U ⊔ V W Σ Y Ƶ
thirst there up dua vest wig azure yes zebra

KARUK UNIFON Single Sound Alphabet

YΔ-RI-PÚX-WO
(girl)

MÚC-MOC
(cow)

ↄ+-SÍI
(dog)

KUC-ↄÍIP
(porcupine)

F+θ-θI
(foot)

XÓC-KOM-HUR
(bow)

+T-RÓP
(five)

PΔ-CÓR-ROK
(otter)

UK-RÓ
(eel)

ÚP-MON
(mouth)

ↄ+N-N+M
(skunk)

COP
(steelhead)

VI-RO-CÓR
(bear)

PÚF-F+ↄ
(deer)

OR-RÍP-I
(dip net)

+S-KÁS
(river)

TIIV
(ear)

PIIe
(four)

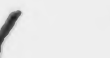
YÍθ-U
(one)

+F-FU-NI
(hair)

TÚC-VON
(cooking paddle)

UX-WÓ
(head)

YOP
(eye)



ÚX-XUK
(two)

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Mockingbird and Swamp Robin

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Mockingbird was fishing on the Klamath River, where the Karuk people live. Then he left for his other home. He was carrying his dip-net frame that he used for fishing, just as he should, up high in the air.

Well, then he met Swamp Robin on the trail. And Swamp Robin was carrying an acorn-drying rack in his burden basket, the same way, up high in the air.

And Mockingbird said, "Well, let's rest." So they rested. And Mockingbird told Swamp Robin, "Some people are picking up the acorns at your acorn-picking grounds."

And Swamp Robin said, "Is that so?"

Then Swamp Robin continued on, coming here to the Klamath River.

Then, in the spring, Swamp Robin left the Klamath River country to go back to his other home. As he was walking uphill, he saw Mockingbird, and went on up to meet him.

Then Swamp Robin told Mockingbird, "Some people are catching salmon at your fishing place, at ~~H~~KRIROV.

So Mockingbird came back here to his fishing place.

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So now it happens that Mocking-bird comes to the Klamath River in the spring when the fish are running. And he leaves when the summer ends.

That's how Mockingbird came to say HKRIROV is his fishing place.

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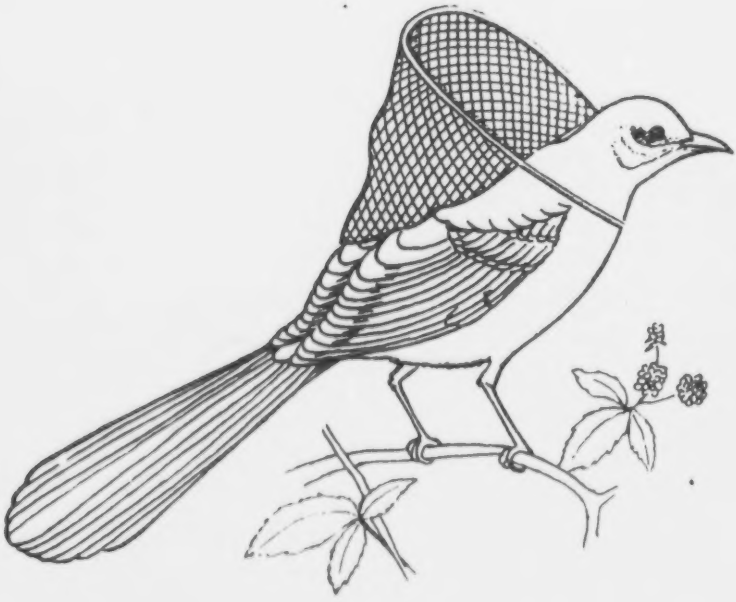

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TOOC TQP-VORUM
Mockingbird was leaving

MO Θ+V-ΘON-NΔN
his land

KOK-TO-IIP-MU.
going back to

PO MO OR-RIP-I O
the his dip net up high

VORU PQ-U-V+K-VOTI.
just he's carrying on his back

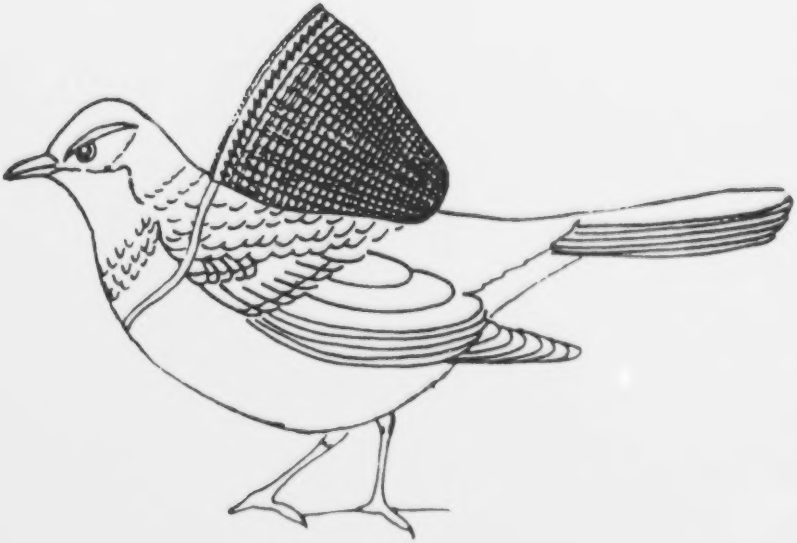
ΔΔ! YUN-NU-VO
well! he saw

UƆ-KUUN. XOC O
Swamp Robin and up high

VURU UT-T+M-NUV
just burden basket

+K-T+K VO PΩ
rack for dry acorns that he's

OT-T+V-UTI.
carrying



KORI XOC ꓷPIIP,
so then he said

"ΔΔ! ↄ+MI NOP-PON-VI."
well! all right we rest

XOC XON-+P-PON-VO.
so they rested

XOC TOOC ꓷ-PΔR
then Mockingbird he told

Uↄ-KOON, "PU MI
Swamp Robin at your

POK-KOHI ROM TO
acorn picking ground they

+F-F+ KORRO-HU
were picking up

PO XON-TOP-PON.
the acorns

KORI XOC UƆKOON
and then Swamp Robin

O-PIIP "HOOM?"
said Is that so

XOC KORI TΔ-I-TOM
then and again

UƆ-KOON ΩK TO-IPOK.
Swamp Robin here come back

PO-YU-VO
still

P+M-NO-M+-HIIS
springtime will come

UƆ-KOON.
Swamp Robin

UƆ-KOON TΩP-VORUM.
Swamp Robin he's leaving

TOOC MOROK XOC
Mockingbird uphill then

TQMO KON TQQK
he saw there here

MOR+-H+V-R+K. XOC
uphill meet

KORI UJ-KOON O-PIIP,
then Swamp Robin he said

"OOM PO-MIMVIR
they at your fishing place

+K-RIRQV. TQP-POX
(name of place) they caught

PO OM-MU."
the salmon

PO-YU-VO TA-ITOM
so then again

ΩK O-IPOK-HΔN TOOC.
here he comes back Mockingbird

PO-YU-VO OM TOOC
still he Mockingbird

PΔYΔM VORU O
today just

O-+POK-VOT+ TO
he keeps coming when

P+M-NONI-HOR-OK.
summer ends

+K-RIROV MOMVIR
(name of place) fish place

TOOC OKOP-HON+K.
Mockingbird he said it to be

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Coyote Tries To Reach The Sun

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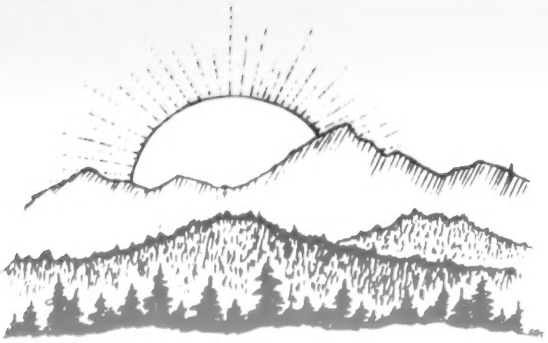
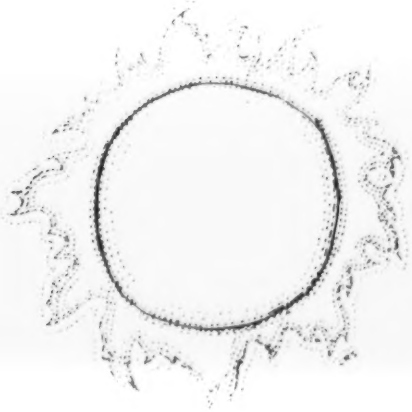
Coyote was known by the Karuk tribe for the things he did. One time he did something that I am going to tell you about. Every day the sun rose at a place uphill from where Coyote stayed. He noticed that the sun rose just up the hill, and he started thinking: "The sun is just up the hill; it is right here."



So, he climbed over the hill. Then he saw the sun across the canyon. Even though he had thought the sun was very close, it was a long way away. And it rose a long distance, and it continued to travel, making it still a long way away.

Finally, even though he kept following it, the sun was so far away that he never did find where it went. Coyote wanted the sun to travel, he willed it to continue to rise. He is the one that has set the sun's path.

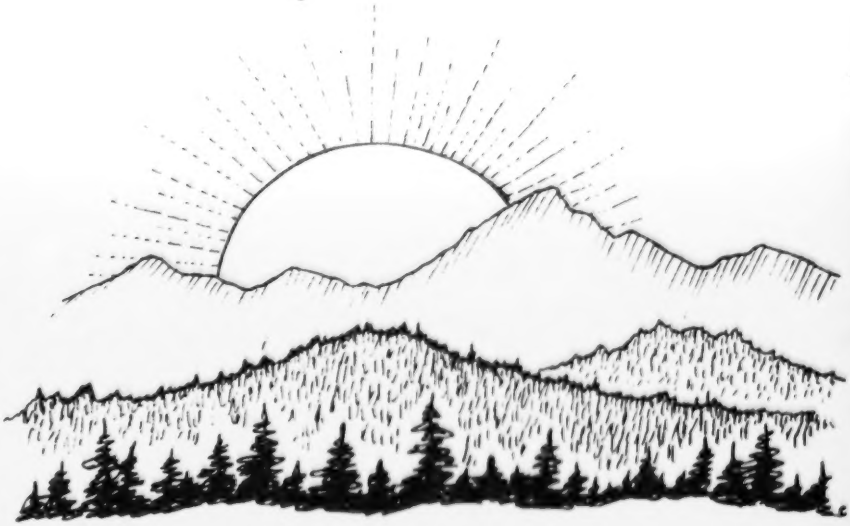


P+NΔF+O VO-O-KOPHON+K.
Coyote it he did this

PU KOCRU MOM TQ
the sun uphill it

VORROPROV. O-XOTI,
rose he thinking

"MOM OKRI PU KOCRU"
uphill just the sun



XUC O-XOTI, "VO UT-TUKON
and he thinking it right there

OKRI PU KOCRU."
just the sun

XUC PQK FOK KOVRO
so climb over

YUN-NU-VO IΘ-YUR-ROK.
(he) saw it across the canyon

XUC TQ VOR-ROPROV
and it rose

HURRU-HO.
long way

PO OR-RUMCIT-R+M-NUT+
it went (continuing)

PU KOCRU.
the sun 27

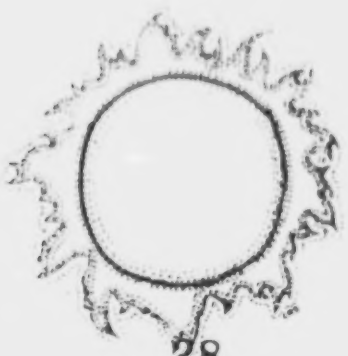
ↃU-VORU PO-MO-HURRU
finally no his (negative)

HG PO-VORRUM
where it went

CIT-R+M-NU T+.
(continuing on)

P+NΔF+Ↄ VIR+VO
Coyote willed it

O KOP-HON+K.
he did this



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Coyote's Trade Song

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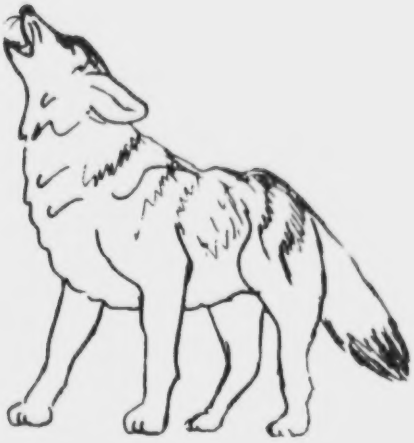
Coyote liked to travel. One day he thought, "Let me go to Klamath Lakes." So he walked upriver, headed for Klamath Lakes. He walked a long way upriver.

As he walked along, he heard someone singing a song. He just kept on walking, however. But he thought, "His song is very pretty. I like it."

He then thought he would ask the singer to trade his song. He thought "Let's trade." He thought what he would say to the singer. He said, "I'll say to him, 'I like your song. Nephew, let's trade.' "



Happy with the thought of how he would gain a song, he continued singing as he traveled.

OK-NI
(beginning for stories)

P+NΔF+Ↄ O-XUC,
Coyote he thought

"TI KON VOR-RUMI
let me go to

KU-YORUↃ. XUC
Klamath Lakes so

KOR-ROK O ORI-RQV.
upriver he walked

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TQ ORI-ROV YIV KOR-ROK.
he traveled long ways upriver

XUC KOR-ROK YIV
so upriver far

TQ ORI-ROV.
he walked

XUC O ⊖+T-TIV
so he heard it (ear)

OKΔ-VU O-POK-KO-RI-VO
someone he singing a song

WO-RU VO
just kept on

O ORI-ROV-VOTI.
he walking

XUC O-XUC, "+F
so he thought real

YOM-MUC PU MO
pretty the his

POK-KO·RI.
song

"TUN·NI TUP·KO-OP.
I like (it)

"C+M-MI NO-PIRON-VI?
Let's we trade

'NI-PΔR-RΔS, '+S-SOV-VOC,
I will say (future) nephew

CI NO PI-RON-VI?
let's we trade

TUN-NI TUP-KOP
I like

PU MI POK-KORI.'"
the your song

O POK-KORI-VOTI
he singing

PO UHO-TI.
as he went